

Frequently Asked Questions Education and Public Health

1. Symptoms and Testing

<p>Should children with asthma who display a cough and/or temperature which is resolved by their asthma medication seek a test for Covid-19.</p>	<p>One of the symptoms of Covid-19 is a continuous cough. This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).</p> <p>If a child has a new continuous cough, they may have Covid-19. They should be tested for Covid-19 and they must self-isolate with their household.</p> <p>If the child with asthma has a cough which is resolved by taking their usual asthma medication, this is not a continuous cough and should be treated as related to their asthma and not Covid-19.</p> <p>If the child has a temperature then Covid-19 is a possible reason for this, regardless of the asthma and the child should be tested.</p>
<p>A child displays a high temperature at school but it quickly returns to normal when at home – should the child be tested?</p>	<p>If a child has a high temperature, they may have Covid-19. They should be tested for Covid-19 and they must self-isolate with their household. This is true even if the temperature rapidly resolves.</p> <p>A high temperature at school is a high temperature, it does not have to be persistent and it does not matter if it has returned to normal on arriving back home.</p>
<p>A child has been given Calpol and their temperature has reduced – can they come to school?</p>	<p>No. If a child has a high temperature, they may have Covid-19. They should be tested for Covid-19 and they must self-isolate with their household and not be sent to school. This is true even if the temperature has resolved after taking Calpol.</p>
<p>Parent reports that the child’s symptoms have gone once at home – should they come back to school?</p>	<p>No. If the school was confident that the child was displaying a continuous cough, high temperature or loss/change in sense of taste or smell then they should be sent home to self-isolate at home with their household and parents should seek a test. It does not matter that symptoms have dissipated after a short time.</p>
<p>Should sickness and diarrhoea be added to the main symptoms of Covid-19 as this has been mentioned in the news for children. If so should they get tested?</p>	<p>No, these are not symptoms which would on their own meet the criteria for someone to be tested. These remain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature • a new, continuous cough • a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste

<p>We have been unable to get tests for teachers who have children at home with temperatures.</p> <p>Should they be off for 14 days while they await a test even if the child recovers.</p>	<p>If the child has not been tested but feels better within the 10 days they still cannot return to school/work. If they had symptoms they need to isolate for the full 10 days and 14 days for households unless symptomatic child has a negative test result.</p> <p>This includes if they are awaiting a test and/or if the parents suspect the symptoms are due to other illnesses.</p> <p>You can now utilise the additional Essex approaches of Mid/South Priority Portal or Commisceo Postal Kits dependant on your location.</p>
<p>If parents keep child at home because they have symptoms, should the sibling with no symptoms be kept off too?</p>	<p>The whole household should isolate while a test is being sought. This includes siblings from this/other schools/settings.</p>
<p>Is there any advice for children who are presenting with colds but also have a cough or temperature?</p> <p>Should these children stay at home?</p>	<p>Any child with a high temperature (38°+ or feeling hot to touch), new continuous cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste, regardless of additional symptoms pointing to another cause (including a cold), should be self-isolated and tested.</p> <p>These individuals should isolate until a test is sought.</p>
<p>Children with asthma as we approach winter - how do we manage this with coughs which can be persistent and ongoing?</p> <p>How does this work for these children who often get a temperature at the same time due to coughing and extra effort on breathing</p>	<p>Any child with one of the Covid-19 symptoms (new continuous cough, temperature, loss/change in sense of taste or smell) should be tested. Even if there is a chance it is related to allergies or asthma.</p> <p>It is not usual for children with asthma to display signs of a temperature without being otherwise unwell.</p> <p>A new, continuous cough means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (<u>if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual</u>).</p>
<p>Can we have a comprehensive list of illnesses temperature, etc what can be in school and what needs to be sent home?</p>	<p>All those who have Covid-19 symptoms must self-isolate and seek a test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a high temperature – feeling hot to touch on chest or back (you do not need to measure temperature) • a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) • a loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal <p>Their households must also self-isolate until they have received the test result. If positive they must remain at home for 14 days (10 for infected individual).</p> <p>Children with none of the above symptoms should be tested.</p>

What is a temperature for a child? Is it 37.8?	You should look for signs of a temperature i.e. flushed, hot to the touch on chest/back. You do not need to 'hit' a specific number, however Public Health England have advised that the temperature is 38.
Do we contact Public Health only with a positive test or if an individual has symptoms?	In the case of a positive test result, contact the DfE helpline or Essex Contact Tracing Team according to the Responding to a Case of Covid-19 guidance.
Following a positive test, who is required to self-isolate	If an individual tests positive for Covid-19, all close contacts (less than 2m apart) are required to self-isolate. This is within school bubbles and at home. Contacts of contacts i.e. Siblings of a close contact, that have not themselves come into contact with the positive individual are not required to self-isolate.

2. Communicating Suspected/Positive Cases

Should we advise parents when there is a suspected case in school?	You should only inform the bubble when there is a positive case. We have received feedback from parents that contact on the basis of suspected test causes increased anxiety and sometimes confusion.
Who should I inform when there is a positive test?	The DfE Helpline or Local Authority Contact Tracing Team, plus school communications. You should only inform your parent community as and when appropriate, for example parent/carers of the affected bubble.

3. Bubble Management

Should we send home a bubble while waiting for test results?	No. There is no need for the bubble to self-isolate unless the test result is received positive and the bubble have been in close contact with the individual during the infectious period (2 days prior to symptoms being displayed). The Local Authority Test and Trace Service/ DfE Helpline will advise should this occur.
If a child is in two bubbles at school such as class bubble and wrap around care bubble would both bubbles need to isolate if the child tests positive?	Yes. Both bubbles that the individual is part of would need to self-isolate. Wrap around care/ before and after school clubs should try and maintain the school bubble where possible, but if they cannot it is important that the group is consistent and forms their own bubble.

What is the incubation period? How many days back would you contact trace?	2 days prior to symptoms displaying.
If a bubble has a positive case, do siblings outside of the bubble, have to self-isolate?	Siblings of the positive individual yes. Siblings of the children in the wider bubble, no. Unless their own sibling then goes on to display symptoms themselves.
What should a school do/not do whilst waiting for advice from Public Health?	Whilst waiting for test results, be vigilant but no need to act regarding self-isolation. If the case is positive and you are clear who needs to self-isolate in response, inform those individuals and others for transparency and awareness. Review risk assessment and ensure you're satisfied with your protective measures in place.
Can class groups within a year group bubble mix at lunch/break time?	You should keep bubbles as small as you can and keep each bubble apart. If class groups come together and mix at break and lunch time they should be treated as one larger bubble. Should a positive case occur the whole year group bubble will likely be asked to isolate if children are all mixing at lunch time. To avoid this you could consider staggering break and lunch times or giving groups allocated space with 2m in between. Some schools have sectioned up the field/playground/dining hall in this way.

4. School Facilities & Resources

Should schools be closing windows now that the weather is colder, considering the ask to increase natural ventilation?	The <u>workplace regulations</u> do still apply in respect of minimum temperatures in a workplace. Schools will need to balance keeping the classrooms at a reasonable temperature whilst doing what they can to ensure ventilation. If it is not appropriate to keep windows open at all times because of the drop in temperature, then our suggested advice is to open windows for limited periods of time to try and get an adequate air exchange and then shut for temperatures sake. For example open windows before school to get some air through, close for morning period, open at break times and then close when children come back in after breaks etc.
Climbing frames on school grounds - can children use them, can different pods use them at different times?	Yes they can. Clean them regularly, if possible in between groups.

How often should toilet facilities be cleaned?	This depends on the circumstances, but toilets will need to be cleaned regularly. Different groups being allocated their own toilet blocks could be considered but is not a requirement if the site does not allow for it.
Can children bring in their own reading book from home?	Yes if necessary. Sharing is ok within the bubble but should be minimised where possible.
Can we sing at school?	It is ok but increases the risk of transmission so you would need to think about other measures in place such as smaller groups, more spacing, ventilation, masks.

5. Face Coverings/ Masks

What about masks for secondary students?	<p>Secondary students can be asked to wear masks inside, in communal areas outside of the classroom if you feel it is appropriate because individuals cannot socially distance.</p> <p>Within the classroom it is not appropriate due to the prolonged nature and impact on teaching and learning. Unless there are specific circumstances.</p>
Should we make face coverings for parents on site mandatory?	You can request it is done, notify parents and put up signage. Some schools report this being in place successfully.
Should staff be refused the option of wearing a face covering in class?	<p>If there are circumstances where staff feel they need to wear a face covering in the classroom, you should discuss their concerns and any possible mitigations within your risk assessment.</p> <p>Face coverings could have a negative impact on teaching and learning and so their use in the classroom should be avoided if possible, however there may be circumstances where you feel this request is reasonable, taking the individual's circumstances into account, and you should keep this under review.</p>

6. Social Distancing

Social distancing – 1m or 2m	<p>2m is the recommended approach as this reduces the risk of transmission considerably.</p> <p>1m+ is acceptable with other mitigations in place – ventilation, being outdoors, wearing a face covering, but 2m is still preferred.</p>
With 30 children facing towards a teacher - does this increase the risk of them contracting Covid-19?	The teacher should try and stay 2m away from the children, this will reduce the risk considerably.

We are having many questions about whether 2m distancing should be in place for years 7 to 11?	2m should be maintained as much as possible. DFE guidance acknowledges that this is not always possible due to the size and space within classrooms and so this is why bubbles will need to self-isolate if there is a positive case within it. If people maintain 2m they will not be asked to self-isolate.
If 30 children face a teacher in class does this increase the risk of them contracting Covid-19?	The teacher should try and stay 2m away from the children, this will reduce the risk considerably.
What about staff social distancing from children, or children from staff?	Staff should definitely socially distance from each other. Staff should socially distance from children outside of the bubble they are allocated to. Within the bubble, it is not expected that staff will always be able to socially distance from children and this is why the Test and Trace scheme would suggest the whole bubble, including staff, need to self-isolate should there be a positive test.

7. Staffing

Should our staff member come to work if their child has come into contact with the virus?	Your staff member does not need to self-isolate as they are not a contact of the infected individual. Unless their own child goes on to display symptoms. This should be treated as a childcare issue (see HR guidance).
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8. Visits to School and Events

Should family visits to school be avoided and replaced with remote alternatives?	Remote if possible is encouraged. Physical visits are possible but you must maintain social distancing and should consider whether any other measures are necessary – masks etc.
Following the strengthening of the '6 people rule' commencing Monday 14th Sept can schools run events with parents?	The strengthened rules do not apply to gatherings for work or educational purposes that are necessary to be undertaken in person. You must remain socially distanced and consider whether remote alternatives are possible. If not whether any other measures are necessary – masks etc.

9. Remote Learning

If a child is off school with suspect Covid-19 and awaiting a test, should we provide remote learning?	If the child is unwell they are deemed off sick then you wouldn't need to provide remote learning. If they are self-isolating either due to contact with confirmed case, travel or symptoms but well enough to 'work' then you should provide work and/or remote learning.
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